

February 28th, 1930.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON RETARDED CHILDREN

Submitted at a meeting of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Education, February 28th, 1930.

Your Sub-Committee has much pleasure in reporting that the two classes established by the P.B.S.C under the Special Classes Education Act at the re-opening of schools in September last have made satisfactory progress, and that two additional classes were opened under the same board on the first of February.

Dr Sinclair inspected these classes on his way through Montreal last autumn, and expressed his satisfaction at the progress made. Each of the four teachers who received special training for the work at the Toronto Training School last summer presented a detailed report of her experiences. A copy of one of these reports is annexed herewith for reference.

The following outline of the activities of your Sub-Committee may be of interest at this stage of the development of the work. On 1927 a Sub-Committee was appointed, with Professor Carrie Derrick as convener, to study the question of Retarded and Mentally Defective Children. This Sub-Committee presented a valuable report drafted by Miss Derrick, the convener, which was carefully considered by this Committee on October, 1928. As the convener was unable to be present through illness, Dr Mitchell of McGill University, Director of the Mental Hygiene Committee of Montreal, was invited to be present and to address the Committee on the subject of the report. The report was adopted, with the exception of paragraph 3 concerning the survey, and it was resolved that a Commission be appointed, with Dr Rexford as Chairman, to carry into effect the recommendation of the Sub-Committee.

After consultation with the Chairman, Dr Rexford arranged for an interview with Dr Sinclair, Inspector of these special classes in Ontario, on November 14th, and obtained valuable information concerning the organization and maintenance of these classes, about 150 of which were under Dr Sinclair's direction. A valuable supply of literature was also secured concerning the work of these classes.

At the December meeting of the Protestant Committee, the Sub-Committee was completed by the addition of the names of Miss Derrick, Andrew R. McMaster, Esq., Dr Parmelee and the Chairman of the Committee. Later on in December a meeting of the Sub-Committee was held, the work done by the Chairman was reported, and further plans arranged.

January 10th, 1929. A second interview was arranged with Dr Sinclair in Toronto for further study of the details of their special classes system. At this time the essential elements of our problem were outlined, and the necessary provisions of an Enabling Act were considered. The privilege of attending the Special Summer Training School in Toronto was secured for our teachers.

January 19th, 1929. A Sub-Committee meeting was held, the results of the study under Dr Sinclair were reported, and an outline of a report to the Protestant Committee was prepared.

